



Governor Janet Napolitano

State of Arizona Department of Homeland Security



Director Leesa Berens Morrison

July 25, 2008
Contact: Laura Oxley
602-542-1713

ARIZONA RECEIVES MORE MONEY TO HELP STATE SECURE THE BORDER

The Arizona Department of Homeland Security announced today a 36 percent increase in federal funding to help counties secure the border. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) awarded \$9.85 million dollars to Pima, Santa Cruz, Yuma, and Cochise counties. The state evaluated the needs of the counties and applied for the grant funding.

"The drastic increase in grant dollars is desperately needed by the law enforcement agencies in those counties, but it didn't come easily," said Arizona Department of Homeland Security Director Leesa Berens Morrison. "We worked hard to educate the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Congress about the need for this funding in Arizona."

The informational campaign was successful and DHS made a significant commitment to Operation Stonegarden in 2008. DHS announced \$60 million to enhance cooperation and coordination between law enforcement agencies in a joint mission to secure the border. Arizona received 16 percent of that funding, the second largest amount awarded to a state.

The current Operation Stonegarden grant began in 2006 when Arizona was awarded \$7.2 million. About one-third of that money purchased equipment like off-road vehicles and night vision goggles. Two-thirds was spent on local, county, and Tribal law enforcement overtime to support U.S. Border Patrol operations and other border crime interdiction.

"It's only proper that the federal government contributes to the law enforcement agencies along the border," said Morrison. "Arizona has the most porous border in the nation with the highest rate of illegal immigrant interdictions. These grant dollars will help ensure the safety of all Arizonans."

The Arizona Department of Homeland Security requests, receives and distributes all Federal Homeland Security grants.

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